

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

An additional comment, I also noticed an article in the Associated Press indicating that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights voted to wait until after the elections to release Bush's civil right's record until after the election. Also, this report is currently posted on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights but the GOP commissioners attempted to have the report removed from their website. They were overruled and the report remains. It seems that different rules are being applied to each candidate although I realize these are different modes of communication. Knowing how the media jumps on anything of this nature, you can bet it would be nationally televised in the News. Please explain. Thank you.